Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT O 02443 301942Z

14
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /030 W
---------- 055972
R 301915Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8344
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 2443

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, TD, XL
SUBJECT: TRINIDAD AGREES TO EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN LIAT

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1186 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN A TELEVISED INTERVIEW SEPTEMBER 29, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ERROL MAHABIR EXPLAINED THE GOTT'S DECISION TO ACQUIRE EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN LIAT (1974) LTD., WHICH HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED AT A SEPTEMBER 20 MEETING IN BRIDGETOWN. HE SAID THAT THE GOTT'S $375,000 LOAN TO THE REGIONAL AIRLINE WOULD BE CONVERTED INTO A 15 PERCENT EQUITY SHAREHOLDING, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE GOTT HAD NOT RECEIVED FULL ANSWERS TO A NUMBER OF QUEATIONS IT RAISED LAST YEAR ABOUT LIAT'S VIABILITY. QUERIED AS TO THE NATURE OF THESE QUESTIONS, MAHABIR SAID THEY WERE SIMPLY THE TYPE OF ISSUES WHICH WOULD BE REAISED BY ANY INVESTOR EXAMING A PROPOSED BUSINESS DEAL. THE MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT TRINIDAD DOES NOT EXPECT TO SUBSIDIZE THE AIRLINE, BUT AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERESTS OF PROMOTING REGIONAL INTEGRATION.

2. MAHABIR SAID THAT IT NOW LOOKED LIKE THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WILL GO AHEAD WITH A LOAN TO LAIT, AND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT O 02443 301942Z

HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE CONTROVERSIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

VENEZUELAN LOAN TO THE AIRLINE WOULD BE RETIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN LIAT THAT TRINIDADIAN SUPPORT WAS PREDICATED ON TWO CONDITIONS: A) THAT OVERALL RATIONALIZATION OF LIAT'S OPERATIONS -- INCLUDING FURTHER PERSONNEL RETRENCHMENTS-- BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORD WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CANAC REPORT; AND B) THAT THE "ISLANDER" SERVICE TO THE SMALLEST ISLANDS--NOW OPERATED ON A SCHEDULED BASIS AND WHICH THE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO SUBSIDIZE--BE CONDUCTED UNDER DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS, PERHAPS ON AN AIR TAXI BASIS.
RICH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, MANAGEMENT, AIRLINES, INVESTMENTS, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO02443
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750339-0525
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975091/aaaaaaio.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BRIDGETOWN 1186
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDAD AGREES TO EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN LIAT
TAGS: EAIR, EIND, TD, XL, LIAT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006